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(54) Title: CELL CALCIUM REGULATION AND ITS USE (57) Abstract DNA and protein compositions are provided for calcium-signal modulating cyclophilin ligand which are shown to act in the calcium-dependent pathway for activation of a number of genes. The DNA composition and proteins may be used in investigating the processes associated with calcium-dependent activation of genes, as well as screening of drugs for interaction with the subject proteins for modulating cell processes, e.g. T-cell activation.		

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CELL CALCIUM REGULATION AND ITS USE

INTRODUCTION

5 Technical Field

The field of this invention is transcription regulation and its use.

Background

There is extensive interest for a wide variety of purposes in understanding how
10 a cell responds to agents in the environment. In one mechanism, agents in the
environment bind to surface membrane proteins, which by themselves or in
combination with other proteins, are able to institute a cascade of events. These
events may involve a plurality of proteins, where inactivation or activation of
various components in the cascade ultimately results in binding of a protein to a
15 DNA sequence with initiation of transcription of one or more genes. Included in
this cascade are phosphatases, kinases, complexing proteins, proteases, DNA
binding proteins, as well as other factors.

One pathway requires calcium influx, from extra- or intracellular sources, as a
secondary signal, which is necessary, but not sufficient, to provide the signal
20 necessary to initiate transcription. A number of proteins have been associated with
the pathway involving calcium, such as calmodulin, calcineurin, CaM kinase, etc.
The increased cytoplasmic calcium concentration may be as a result of external
influx or release of internal stores. The mechanism by which enhanced calcium
concentration acts in conjunction with other agents to signal the initiation of
25 transcription is not completely understood. However, it is clear that the pathway

involving the calcium signal is important to a number of processes involved with activation and proliferation of cells of interest.

One cell population of interest is muscle cells, particularly cardiac muscle cells. The ability of these cells to perform work and the regulation of these cells is of extreme importance to heart function. Coronary vasodilators, such as verapamil, find extensive use in the treatment of cardiac malfunction. By being able to regulate calcium flow to which the heart cells are responsive, improved regulation of heart function may be achieved.

Another cell population of particular interest are T-cells, the primary component of the cellular arm of the immune system. T-cell activation results from stimulation of the T-cell receptor by binding of the T-cell receptor to an antigen presenting cell. The immunosuppressant drug cyclosporin A (CsA) blocks a calcium-dependent signal from the T-cell receptor (TCR) that normally leads to expression of the T-cell growth factor interleukin-2 (IL-2) and other lymphokines, and ultimately to T-cell activation. CsA binds to and inhibits the prolyl isomerase activity of cyclophilin. This drug-isomerase complex inactivates the Ca^{2+} -dependent phosphatase, calcineurin, by a direct interaction near the active site of the enzyme. (Lieu et al., *Cell* 66, 807-15 (1991); Clipstone and Crabtree, *Nature* 357, 695-7 (1992); and O'Keefe et al., *Nature* 357, 692-4 (1992).)

Calcium intracellular levels play a major function in a number of different cells involving a number of different activities. In addition to the induction of gene transcription by calcium influx, many other cellular mechanisms may be regulated by calcium influx, such as muscle contraction (both cardiac and skeletal), vesicle degranulation (such as in the response of neutrophils and macrophages to infection, or basophil response to antigen stimulation, or release of acetylcholine by neurons), and closure of intracellular gap junctions. Some of these responses may not require calcium induced transcription, but are instead probably due to a direct effect of calcium on intracytoplasmic proteins, such as troponin-tropomyosin in muscle contraction. All of these situations offer opportunities to investigate the role of various proteins involved with calcium regulation and signal transmission.

The cell cycle can also involve fluxes of calcium. Intracellular chelators which block changes in intracellular calcium concentration can block the cell cycle

from progressing, thereby arresting cell division. (Rabinovitch *et al.*, 1986, J. of Immunol. 137, 952-961). Therefore, regulation of calcium can be effective in modulating cell division in normal and diseased cells.

For many purposes, there is substantial interest in being able to selectively
5 prevent activation of cells or enhance the activation of cells. For example, for heart muscle cells, one would wish to be able to maintain their coordinated action; for T-cell mediated autoimmune diseases, one would wish to inhibit the activation of T-cells involved in the autoimmune indication. For infections, there would be interest in being able to activate T-cells, to more rapidly respond to the pathogen.
10 In the case of cancer, there is an interest in slowing the proliferation of the cancer cells, which may allow for therapies which are not as destructive to the host as present day therapies. In order to achieve agents, particularly synthetic organic compounds, which can serve various purposes in the activation or deactivation of cells, it is necessary to be able to isolate the components in the pathway. In this
15 way, one can determine whether various agents will bind to the component and act to inactivate or activate the component.

In addition, as one understands the pathway more completely, one may be able to modulate the pathway more effectively, providing for agents which are selective for a particular set or subset of a cellular population. Since in many cases activation
20 requires co-stimulation, being able to manipulate agents available to the cell may allow for such cellular activity. Furthermore, in understanding the pathway, it is frequently desirable to be able to selectively control the presence or the absence of a particular intermediate in the pathway. This can be achieved with knock-outs using homologous recombination, integration of genes providing for antisense sequences,
25 introduction of expression constructs involving inducible promoters, and the like. There is also an interest in being able to determine when a particular gene is being expressed or is silent, the nature of the cells in which the protein is expressed, and the like. Therefore, there is substantial academic and commercial interest in identifying specific components of cellular pathways to allow for understanding the
30 pathway, selectively modulating the pathway, and developing drugs which may be active in binding to the target protein.

Relevant Literature

The yeast 2-hybrid system is described in Chien et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 88, 9578-9582 (1991); Durfee et al., *Genes Dev.* 7, 555-69 (1993). The role of NF-AT in T-cells for inducible expression of IL-2 is described in Emmel et al., *Science* 246, 1617-1620 (1989); Verwij et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 265, 15788-15795 (1990); Karttunen and Shastri, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 88, 3972-3976 (1991); and Mattila et al., *Emble J* 9, 4425-33 (1990). The role of p59fyn tyrosine kinase as evidenced by a dominant-negative form of the kinase is described in Kypta et al., *EMBO J* 7, 3837-3844 (1988); Twamley-Stein et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 90, 7696-7700 (1993); and Samelson et al., *IBID* 87, 4358-4362 (1990). The role of Lck in T-cell activation is described by Straus and Weiss, *Cell* 70, 585-593 (1992). NF-IL-2A is described by Ullman et al., *Science* 254, 558-562 (1991).

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A purified form of calcium-signal modulating cyclophilin ligand (CAML), its DNA sequence, and its role in the calcium activation pathway is described. The protein and DNA may be used for diagnostic purposes and for identifying agents for modulating the calcium induced activation pathway. Knowledge of the coding sequence allows for manipulation of cells to elucidate the mechanism of which CAML is a part.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 demonstrates activation of transcription by CAML overexpression in T cells. 1(a) is a graph comparing TCR-stimulation in cells co-transfected with a CAML-expressing cassette with cells which do not overexpress CAML. 1(b) is a graph showing the role of PMA in CAML induction of NF-AT activity with cells overproducing CAML and not overproducing CAML. 1(c) is a bar graph evaluating the effect of a p59fyn deficiency in a T cell on CAML T cell activation. 1(d) is a bar graph evaluating the effect of a Lck deficiency in a T cell on CAML T cell activation;

Fig. 2 is concerned with the elucidation of the CAML site of activation in T cell signal transduction; 2(a) is a bar graph showing the

- effect of CsA or FK506 on CAML action; 2(b) is a bar graph showing CAML action specificity for calcium-dependent transcription factors; 2(c) are FACS plots of cells transfected with a plasmid that directs expression of a cell-surface murine marker (CD8 α) and pBJ5 (right) or pBJ-CAML (left); and 2(d) is a graph demonstrating that CAML activation requires cytoplasmic calcium influx.

DESCRIPTION OF SPECIFIC EMBODIMENTS

- DNA and protein compositions, and fragments thereof, of calcium-signal modulating cyclophilin ligand (CAML), particularly human CAML, are provided.
- The DNA and protein compositions find use in screening for agonists and antagonists, in elucidating the role CAML plays in cellular signal transduction, the screening of cellular responses to external agents in relation to the expression of CAML, and the modulation of cellular responses associated with signal transduction involving CAML.
- CAML DNA and protein have the following sequences.

DNA Sequence (SEQUENCE ID NO:1:)

	CGCCACTGCCACCCCTCCCAGACTGTGGACGGGAGGATGGAGTCGATGGCCGTCGCTACC	60
	GACGGCGGGGAGAGGCCGGGGTCCCAGCGGGCTCAGGTCTGTTCGGCTTCCCAGCGTCGG	120
20	GCGGAGCTGCGTCGGAGAAAGCTGCTCATGAACTCGGAACAGCGCATCAACCGGATCATG	180
	GGCTTTCACAGGCCCGGGAGCGGCGCGGAAGAAGAAAAGTCAAACAAAATCAAAGCAGCAG	240
	GACAGTGATAAACTGAACTCCCTCAGCGTTCCTTCCGTTTCAAAGCGAGTAGTGCTGGGT	300
	GATTCAGTCAGTACAGGAACAAGTACCAGCAGGGTGGTGTGGCCGAGGTAAAGGGGACC	360
	CAACTGGGAGACAAATTGGACTCGTTCATTAAACCACCTGAGTGCAGTAGTGATGTCAAC	420
25	CTTGAGCTCCGGCAGCGGAACAGAGGGGACCTGACAGCGGACTCGGTCCAGAGGGGTTC	480
	CGCCATGGCCTAGAGCAGTACCTTCCAGATTGGAAGAAGCAATGAAGCTAAGGAAACAG	540
	CTGATTAGTGAAAAACCCAGTCAAGAGGATGGAATACAACAGAAGAATTTGACTCTTTT	600
	CGAATATTTAGATTGGTGGGATGTGCTCTTCTTGCTCTTGGAGTCAGAGCTTTTGTTC	660
	AAATACTTGTCCATATTTGCTCCATTTCTTACTTTACAACCTTGCCTACATGGGATTATAC	720
30	AAATATTTTCCCAAGAGTGAAAAGAAGATAAAGACAACAGTACTAACAGCTGCACTTCTA	780
	TTGTTCGGGAATTCTTGCCGAAGTGATAAATCGATCAATGGATACCTATAGCAAAATGGGC	840
	GAAGTCTTCACAGATCTCTGTGTCTACTTTTTCACTTTTATCTTTTGTTCATGAACTGCTT	900
	GATTATTGGGGCTCTGAAGTACCATGAAGCCTGTAGAAGGAGGAGGAGCTTACGAA	960
	AAAAATCCTCTTCTATATTGCAGTGTCTCTAAAGGAGGCAAATTGGTTTACACCTTCATG	1020
35	TAATCTTTTACTTTAGGGGTTGTAAAGCTACTTTATTAGATATAGAATGGCAGATTCTC	1080

	TGATTTAAAAGGGCTGAGTTTGTATTATTACTGATATGAAGAATAGAGTACCAATGTCAT	1140
	TAATTGATTTTTCTTGTTAATCAGAATTCCTATTCTGTACCTTTCCTCTAACTTCTCAGA	1200
	TTTGTAATTCTTCTTTTCGGGAGCTGAGCTAGTGCTTTTAGGAGAACAGATAAAATGTGGT	1260
	CTCAGCCAGCCCTAGAGACTGCTTCTTGTTGTTTGTGTCATTCTGTCCTGAGAAATGAAGT	1320
5	CATCTGAAAAATAAAAATGCAGAAACCCAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA	1380
	AAAAAAAAAAAA	1391

Protein Sequence (SEQUENCE ID NO:2:)

	MESMAVATDGGERP	40
	GVPAAGSGLSASQ	
	RRRRLLMNS	80
	EQRINRIMGFHRP	
	GSAGAEESQTKSK	
	QDSDKLNSLSVPS	120
5	VSKRVVLGDSVST	
	GTDDQGGVAEVKG	
	TQLGDKLDSFIKP	160
	PECSSDVNLELRQ	
	RNRGDLTADSVQR	
	GSRHGLEQYLSRFE	200
	EAMKLRKQLISEK	
	PSQEDGNTTEEF	
	DSFRIFRLVGCALLA	240
	LGVRAFVCKYLSI	
	FAPFLTQLAYMGLY	
	KYFPKSEKKIKT	280
	TVLTAALLLSGIPA	
	EVINRSMDTYSKM	
	GEVFTDLCVYFFT	
	FIFCHELLDYWGSEVP	296

10

The DNA sequence comprising all or a portion of the coding region may be isolated and purified in conventional ways. The DNA sequence may be cDNA or genomic, and if genomic may include the 5' and/or 3' untranslated regions, e.g. the transcriptional initiation region comprising the promoter, enhancer, etc., or the transcriptional termination region, as well as flanking sequences. The DNA sequence is conveniently less than about 20 kbp, more usually less than about 10 kbp and at least about 18 bp, more usually at least about 30 bp. The DNA sequence may include flanking sequences from the locus comprising the gene encoding CAML or include flanking sequences unrelated to the CAML locus, from the same or different host source or synthetic DNA.

The CAML proteins may be found in any mammalian cell and based on analogy to other proteins involved with transcription regulation involving calcium, would be expected to be conserved over a wide variety of species. Thus, CAML proteins from other species will have at least about 60% homology with the human protein sequence, usually at least about 70% homology, as determined by conventional databank programs for determining homologous sequences, and may be present in domestic animals, laboratory animals, such as mice, rats and rabbits, pets, such as dogs, cats, and the like, etc.

The CAML protein will have a molecular weight of about 33 kDa, as evidenced by SDS-polyacrylamide gel migration and an open reading frame of 888 bp. The amino acid sequence has no obvious similarities to other known proteins. Three hydrophobic regions of > 20 residues each at the C-terminus fulfill the characteristics of

transmembrane domains by the method of Sipos et al, *Eur. J. Biochem.* 213, 1333-1340 (1993). CAML is an integral membrane protein with a majority of the polypeptide on one side of the membrane, in accord with its role in calcium transport in regulation. The cDNA is about 1400 bp and the message is found in all tissues with the highest
5 levels found in testis and brain.

CAML's role has been elucidated in T cells, which is exemplary of other cells, e.g. muscle cells, brain cells, testes, ovaries, etc. In muscle cells, troponin regulates Ca-mediated muscle contraction.

CAML binds to cyclophilin B. Overexpression of CAML in T-cells partially
10 abolishes the requirement for TCR cross-linking as evidenced by activation of NF-AT specific transcription, when assayed in the presence of phorbol ester (PMA) to provide a co-stimulatory signal. The degree of NF-AT activation by CAML varies from 20-125% of maximal induction -- PMA plus ionomycin -- in multiple transfections and is always distinctly different from controlled transfections, in which activation of
15 NF-AT is not observed in cells stimulated by PMA alone.

Activation of NF-AT by CAML requires exogenous stimulation of PKC by PMA, unlike TCR mediated activation, which is alone sufficient to activate both calcium and PKC signal transduction pathways. CAML produces its effect in the calcium pathway downstream of the TCR and phospholipase C. CAML is capable of activating NF-AT
20 in p59fyn and Lck tyrosine kinase defective cells. CAML mediated activation is completely abolished in the presence of immunosuppressive amounts of calcineurin inhibitors CsA and FK506. CAML partly replaces the calcium influx requirement for both NF-IL2A and the entire IL-2 enhancer, in a fashion similar to its effect with NF-AT. In both cases, the degree of stimulation varies from 20-60% of the maximal
25 stimulation seen with PMA plus ionomycin treatment. Without CAML there is no detectable expression from NF-IL2A or the IL-2 enhancer in the absence of calcium ionophore. CAML overexpression has no effect on the calcium-independent transcription factor AP1.

CAML acts to elevate intracellular calcium by causing cytoplasmic influx of
30 calcium, as evidenced by analysis by flow cytometry of calcium levels in CAML overexpressing cells.

The DNA gene sequence comprising the coding sequence for CAML can be used in a wide variety of ways. Fragments of 18 nt or greater up to the entire cDNA or limited to the open reading frame, may be used as probes to identify CAML genes in hosts other than human, to screen agents for their effect on CAML expression, to
5 provide antisense sequences with an inducible promoter, so that CAML expression can be turned on and off to investigate cellular response to external agents, to express the CAML protein or fragment thereof, to express a fragment of CAML to act as a dominant negative, etc. If desired, the terminal portion of the protein involving the transmembrane sequences, which extend from nucleotide 598 to nucleotide 903 may be
10 removed, so that the remaining truncated CAML may be provided as a soluble protein. Alternatively, microsomes may be prepared comprising CAML which may be used, where the CAML will then be associated with a lipid membrane. The DNA sequence may also be mutated to determine the sites essential for binding to cyclophilin B, as well as other sites associated with the influx of calcium into the cell. By employing
15 mutagenesis, the regions essential for CAML activity can be determined for the development of agonists and antagonists.

Various transcription and expression constructs can be prepared. Thus, cassettes can be prepared comprising a promoter functional in the target host, all or a portion of the coding region of CAML in the sense or antisense direction, and a termination region
20 for terminating transcription and expression, as appropriate. For inducible transcription, various enhancers may be employed. Depending upon whether constitutive or inducible transcription or expression is desired. Promoters of interest include SV40 promoter, β -actin promoter, β -gal promoter, λ -promoter, GAL1-GAL10 promoter, metallothionein I or II promoter, etc. Depending upon the purpose of the
25 expression cassette, the target cells may be prokaryotic or eukaryotic, conveniently for expression employing *E. coli*, *S. cerevisiae*, CHO cells, COS cells, etc. For investigating the role of CAML, the host cells will usually be mammalian cells, particularly human cells, such as Jurkat T-cells, H9c2(2-1), rat heart myoblast (which fuse to form myotubes, which respond to stimulation by acetylcholine, Exp. Cell Res.
30 98:367-381, 1976), mouse C2C12, or other stable cell lines. In some instances one may wish to use primary cells.

The expression cassette may be introduced into the target cells in a wide variety of ways, frequently depending upon the nature of the particular target cells. For introduction of the DNA, one may use calcium phosphate precipitated DNA, transfection, using a wide variety of available viral vectors, electroporation, biolistics, fusion, or the like. The particular method for introducing the DNA into the host cell is not critical to this invention. In conjunction with the introduction of the cassette, various markers may be used, which allow for selection of cells comprising the expression cassette. For the most part, the markers will be antibiotic resistance genes, e.g. Neo, CAT, Tet, etc., or providing prototrophy to an auxotrophic host.

10 The DNA sequence may be used as a probe to identify expression of CAML in a target cell. The use of probes to identify a message is well established and does not require elaborate exemplification here. See, for example, *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, Sambrook et al., *Eds.*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, 1989. Particularly, RNases may be inactivated, and message RNA
15 bound to a membrane surface. Labeled DNA sequence of the CAML cDNA may then be used under hybridization conditions to determine duplex formation by means of a label. Various labels may be used, which may be bound directly or indirectly to the nucleotide probe, such as fluorescers, radioisotopes, enzymes, and the like.

Of particular interest is introducing into a host cell the CAML expression cassette
20 employing an inducible transcriptional initiation region, so that one may induce the expression of CAML at various levels, depending upon the amount of inducing agent one employs. In this manner, agents which are able to permeate the membrane into the cytoplasm may be screened as to their effect on the calcium activation pathway, in the presence or absence of CAML. One may use a cellular host, where the native CAML
25 gene has been knocked out employing homologous recombination, in accordance with conventional techniques. See, for example, Chisaka and Capecchi (1991), *Nature* 350, 473-479; Koller and Smithies (1992), *Ann. Rev. of Imm.* 10, 705-730; Riele et al. (1990), *Nature* 348, 649-651. In this manner, one may investigate the effect agents have on muscle cells or T-cell activation in the absence or presence of CAML, so that
30 agents may be evaluated for their ability to control cellular activation, e.g. inhibit the secretion of IL-2 or other cytokines in T-cells, in relation to the expression of CAML.

The CAML protein can be purified to a high level of purity, usually at least about 50% of total protein, preferably at least about 75 %, more preferably at least about 95% or greater, up to substantially pure. The protein may be prepared and purified in accordance with conventional ways, expressing the protein in any convenient cellular host. The protein would then be purified by HPLC, gel exclusion chromatography, affinity chromatography, or the like. CAML may be used for the preparation of specific antibodies, which can be used in assays for detecting the presence of CAML as present in a cellular lysate or for affinity purification. Monoclonal antibodies can be prepared in accordance with conventional ways, where the CAML may be used as an immunogen to immunize a mouse or other laboratory animal for the production of antiserum. For monoclonal antibodies, the spleen may be isolated and splenocytes fused with an appropriate immortalizing cell or other agent, e.g. virus, and the resulting immortalized cells screened for the production of monoclonal antibodies specific for CAML.

The use of antibodies in diagnostic assays is amply exemplified in the literature. The cells or cellular lysate may be bound to a surface, labeled antibody added for binding to CAML, non-specifically bound antibody washed away, where the presence of label bound to the surface is indicative of the presence of CAML in the cell or cellular lysate. The proteins may also be used in a soluble or "insoluble" form (including the transmembrane sequences, either bound or unbound to a membrane) for screening agents capable of binding to CAML. In this way, one can identify candidates which may interfere with the binding of CAML to cyclophilin B, or otherwise inhibiting the role of CAML in the host cell.

As already indicated Ca plays a general regulatory role in many different cells. In addition to the cells previously discussed, in light of the high expression of CAML in testis and ovary, calcium can play a role in gametogenesis or function. The importance of calcium in sperm function is described by Hong et al., *Lancet* (1984 Dec.22) 2(8417-18):1449-51; Thomas and Meizel, In: *Gamete Res.* (1988 Aug.) 20(4):397-411; and Yanagimachi, In: *Biol Reprod.* (1978 Dec) 19(5):949-58. Also, CAML is highly expressed in brain. Calcium flux has been recognized as regulatory in brain, where calcineurin has been shown to be involved in hippocampal long-term depression (Mulkey, et al. 1994, *Nature* 369, 486-488)

The role of CAML in these various regulatory processes may be determined using the probes provided for in this invention. Employing the protein and nucleic acid compositions, one may monitor the expression of CAML, enhance or diminish the expression of CAML or change the regulation of CAML expression. In this way one
5 can determine what pathways are controlled by CAML and the position in the pathway at which CAML exerts its regulatory role. In addition, CAML and its binding to cyclophilin B can be exploited to identify novel drugs, including analogs of known drugs, such as derivatives of cyclosporin A, by screening the drugs for binding to CAML and/or interfering with the complex formation of CAML and cyclophilin B.
10 Targets for treatment mediated by CAML activity can include therapeutic contraception, infertility, learning and memory disorders, and the like.

The following examples are offered by way of illustration and not by way of limitation.

EXPERIMENTAL

15 Example 1. (Fig. 1)

(A) CAML transfection replaces the TCR-stimulation requirement for NF-AT activation.

20 Tag-jurkat cells co-transfected with the NFAT-SEAP reporter SXNFAT (Bram et al., *Molecular and Cellular Biology* 13, 4760-4769 (1993) and a control plasmid pBJ5 (squares), pBJ-CAML (circles), pBJ- β -tubulin (triangles) were stimulated with 25 ng/ml phorbol ester (PMA) and the indicated amounts of OKT3 (anti-CD3 antibody) bound to plastic. NF-AT-specific transcription is expressed as a percentage of maximal induction by ten μ g/ml OKT3 anti-TCR antibody.

(B) CAML induction of NF-AT activity requires PMA.

25 Jurkat cells were co-transfected with NFAT-SEAP and pBJ-CAML (circles) for the control vector pBJ5 (squares), and stimulated with the indicated amounts of PMA. NF-AT specific transcription is indicated in arbitrary phosphatase assay units.

(C) The block in T-cell activation induced by a dominant-negative p59fyn is bypassed by CAML overexpression.

30 Tag-jurkat cells were transiently transfected with NFAT-SEAP with or without pBJ-CAML and/or p59fyn(-), a plasmid encoding a kinase negative mutant form of p59fyn. Cells were then treated as indicated, and NFAT-SEAP measured. To control

for transfection efficiency, a constitutive promotor was included driving the expression of luciferase (EF-UC) in the assay. Phosphatase normalized to luciferase expression is indicated.

(D) CAML overexpression plus PMA activates NF-AT in spite of lack of Lck. JCaM1 (Lck-negative Jurkat cells) were transiently transfected with NF-AT-luciferase reporter plasmid and pBJ5 (left) or pBJ-CAML (middle) TA-jurkat cells were transfected with NF-AT-luciferase and pBJ5. After 24 hours cells were stimulated with PMA or OKT3 TCR antibody for six hours and NF-AT-specific luciferase was determined. RSV-SEAP reporter was co-transfected to normalize for transfection efficiency.

Example 2. Preparation of Plasmids.

Plasmid pAS-B fused the complete coding sequence of cyclophilin B (Hasel and Sutcliffe, *Nucleic Acid Res.* 18, 4019 (1990); Price et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 88, 1903-7 (1991)) to the DNA binding domain of GAL4 in plasmid pAS1 (Durfee, 1993, *supra*). A B-lymphocyte cDNA library and the GAL4-activation domain plasmid pACT were screened by the yeast 2-hybrid method using pAS-B as bait (Durfee, 1993, *supra*). 300,000 transformants gave rise to ten potential positive clones. Positive interacting plasmids were recovered and retransformed into yeast Y153 with various bait fusion plasmids to verify specificity of interaction with cyclophilin B. DNA inserts were excised from the interacting plasmids with restriction endonuclease *Xho* I and were cloned into expression vector pLX2 for transfection into Jurkat cells.

pLX2 is a derivative of expression vector pBJ5, (Takebe, et al., *Molecular and Cellular Biology* 8, 466-472 (1988)) that contains a strong translation initiation codon which adds the residues M-A-R-G to *Xho* I inserts. Plasmid pBJ-CAML was made by inserting the entire CAML insert into PLX2. (Similar results were obtained with constructs using the normal CAML initiation codon.) TAg-jurkat cells (Northrop et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 268, 2917-2923 (1993)) were transiently transfected (Mattila et al., *EMBO J* 9, 4425-4433 (1990)) with the indicated reporter plasmid and pBJ-CAML or the control plasmid with no insert (pBJ5). After 24 h incubation, cells were stimulated with the indicated amounts of OKT3 (bound to plastic dishes) or 0.5 μ M ionomycin and 25 ng/ml phorbol ester for a further 20 h. Supernatants were assayed for secreted phosphatase as in Bram et al., *Molecular and Cellular Biology* 13, 4760-4769 (1993).

After identification of the CAML insert as a clone of interest, its interaction with cyclophilin B was verified by two methods. The independent reporter GAL-lacZ in yeast Y153 were shown to be induced by pAS-B plus pACT-CAML in combination, but not by either separately, thus verifying the formation of the 2-hybrid interaction.

- 5 Secondly, a reverse swap experiment was performed in which CAML coding sequences were excised and subcloned into pAS1 to encode a GAL4-DNA binding domain-CAML fusion and the cyclophilin B cDNA were subcloned into pACT to encode a GAL4-activation domain-cyclophilin B fusion. Stable transformants of Y153 with these two plasmids allowed growth on histidine-deficient medium due to high-level
10 transcriptional induction of GAL-HIS3, while no growth was caused by either plasmid alone.

Example 3. Elucidation of the CAML site of action in T-cell signal transduction; CAML overexpression specifically activates calcium signal-dependent transcription factors by elevating intracellular calcium. (Fig. 2)

- 15 (A) CAML action is blocked by CsA or FK506.

TAg-jurkat cells were co-transfected with NFAT-SEAP reporter plasmid and pBJ5 (left) or pBJ-CAML (right) (see Figure 2). After 24 h, cells were treated with the indicated combinations of PMA (25 ng/ml), ionomycin (0.5 μ M), CsA (100 ng/ml), or FK506 (500 pg/ml) for 20 h and NF-AT specific transcription measured by
20 phosphatase assay.

- (B) CAML action is specific for calcium-dependent transcription factors.

TAg-jurkat cells were co-transfected with SEAP reporter plasmids containing control enhancer sequences specific for NF-IL2A, AP-1, or the entire IL-2 enhancer, and with pBJ-CAML or the control plasmid pBJ5. After 24 h, cells were treated with
25 the indicated combinations of PMA (25 ng/ml) and ionomycin (0.5 μ M) for 20 h and NF-AT specific transcription measured by phosphatase assay. Specific induction due to CAML was seen in PMA treated cells transfected with NF-IL2A or IL2 reporter plasmids (open boxes).

- (C) Jurkat cells were transiently co-transfected with a plasmid that directs
30 expression of a cell-surface marker (murine CD8 α) and plasmid pBJ5 (left) or pBJ-CAML (right).

Control experiments were done to ensure that CD8 α overexpression did not inhibit or stimulate T-cell activation by CAML. After 24 h incubation at 37°C, cells were loaded with INDO-1 and stained with FITC-labeled antibody to murine CD8 α (Becton-Dickenson, *Anti-LYT2*) to identify the transfected cells. Individual cell calcium and FITC fluorescence were measured with a Becton-Dickenson Facs Star P+. Cells were warmed to 37°C and treated with 25 ng/ml PMA immediately prior to analysis. For each plot, the CD8 α brightest 1% of cells representing the transfected cells are shown by the shaded curve, while untransfected cells in the same culture are shown by the unshaded line. The bracket overlying each plot indicates the intracellular calcium level in cells treated with 1 μ M ionomycin at the end of the experiment.

(D) CAML activation of NF-AT requires extracellular calcium.

TAg-jurkat cells were co-transfected with NFAT-SEAP and pBJ5 (square), pBJ-CAML (circles) or pBJ-MutCln (triangles), a plasmid directing expression of C-terminal truncated, calcium-independent calcineurin A subunit (Clipstone and Crabtree, *Ann. of N.Y. Acad. Sci.* 696, 20-31 (1993)). Cells were grown for 24 h and subsequently stimulated by addition of 25 ng/ml PMA (circles and triangles) or 25 ng/ml PMA + 10 μ g/ml OKT3 antibody to the TCR (squares), in the presence of the indicated levels of EGTA. Averages and standard deviations from two separate experiments are shown.

20

RESULTS

The screening of a human lymphocyte cDNA library (Durfee, 1993, *supra*) for clones encoding cyclophilin-binding proteins using the yeast 2-hybrid system with cyclophilins A or B fused to the DNA-binding domain of GAL4 as the interaction target, resulted in cyclophilin A being relatively non-selective in the assay (1:1,000 clones), whereas cyclophilin B was highly selective (1:30,000 clones). Plasmids from ten yeast colonies that were positive for interaction following re-screening with cyclophilin B were further analyzed.

Overexpression of the cyclophilin B interacting protein encoded by one cDNA clone (CAML) partially abolished the requirements for TCR cross-linking as judged by activation of NF-AT specific transcription, when assayed in the presence of PMA to provide a co-stimulatory signal. The degree of NF-AT activation by CAML varied from 20-125% of maximal (PMA plus ionomycin) induction in multiple transfections,

30

whereas in control transfections, activation of NF-AT was not observed in cells stimulated by PMA alone.

Activation of NF-AT by CAML requires exogenous stimulation of phosphokinase C by PMA, indicating that CAML acts downstream of the TCR and phospholipase C.

- 5 The data also demonstrate that CAML acts downstream from the tyrosine kinases Fyn and Lck. Based on the evidence obtained with CsA and FK506, where immunosuppressive amounts of either drug completely abolished CAML-mediated activation, CAML acts upstream from calcineurin.

- 10 Transfection with the CAML overexpression plasmid, with various enhancer sequences demonstrated that CAML partly replaces the calcium influx requirement for both NF-IL2A and the entire IL2 enhancer, in a fashion similar to its effect with NF-AT. The degree of stimulation varies from 20-60% of the maximal stimulation (see above). CAML overexpression does not affect the activity of the calcium-independent transcription factor AP1.

- 15 CAML activation may be dependent upon external calcium, in light of the results obtained with EGTA in the medium, or may be dependent on internal calcium stores.

Assay for CAML expression

Preparation of plate and reagents

- 20 Nunc Maxisorb plates are coated with an anti-CAML IgM antisera. The coating solution is 10 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ of antisera in 0.1M Na Acetate. Each well is coated with 100 μl of coating solution and incubated for 6 ± 0.5 hours at 25°C , $\geq 98\%$ relative humidity. At the end of the incubation the coating solution is aspirated and the wells rinsed once with 50 mM phosphate buffer at 300 $\mu\text{l/well}$. Then the wells are blocked with 1% bovine serum albumin at 300 $\mu\text{l/well}$ for 18 ± 4 hours at 25°C , $\geq 98\%$ relative
- 25 humidity. At the end of incubation the blocking solution is aspirated and the plates washed once with 50 mM phosphate buffer at 300 $\mu\text{l/well}$. Then the plates are coated with 4% sucrose solution at 300 $\mu\text{l/well}$ for 10 minutes. The sucrose solution is aspirated from all the wells. The plates are dried in a drying tunnel for 7 minutes at 52°C .

30 *Conjugate*

Horse radish peroxidase (HRP) conjugate of goat anti-mouse IgG is diluted 1:8,000 in assay buffer.

Substrate

OPD (o-phenylenediamine) solution is prepared fresh prior to use within 15 minutes at 3 mg/ml in the assay buffer.

Assay Protocol:

- 5 Diluted supernatant of a cellular lysate, which has been centrifuged to remove debris, is pipetted into each test well, 100 μ l/well. 50 mM phosphate buffer, 0.01. % thimerosal pH7.4 is added into each well, 100 μ l/well. The plate is covered with plastic sealer and incubated at 37°C for one hour.

The plate is aspirated and washed 3 times with buffer, 325 μ l/well each time.

- 10 Mouse anti-CAML antisera is added to each well at a dilution of 1:4000, 100 μ l/well, and the mixture incubated for 30 min followed by aspiration and washing, as described above.

Diluted goat anti-mouse IgG-HRP conjugate is pipetted into all wells. The plate is incubated at room temperature for one hour.

- 15 The plate is aspirated and washed 3 times with buffer, 325 μ l/well each time.

OPD substrate solution is pipetted into all wells. The plate is incubated for 7 minutes at room temperature.

Stop solution is added into all wells, 100 μ l/well.

- 20 The plate is read in a microplate reader at a wavelength of 492 nm and 600 nm reference wavelength.

Following the above procedure, human T cells activated by binding of antibodies to the T cell receptor are assayed for the expression of CAML. Activated T cells give a stronger CAML signal than quiescent T cells indicating that activation enhances CAML expression.

- 25 It is evident from the results, that the subject invention provides novel compositions which can be used in the elucidation in the calcium-dependent activation pathway for expression of a number of different genes. Particularly, the subject compositions can be used in the investigation of T-cell activation. Agents may be screened for their effect on the role of CAML in cellular processes, where the agents
30 may serve as therapeutic agents in modulating the activation of a variety of cells and controlling the expression of calcium-dependent transcription.

All publications and patent applications cited in this specification are herein incorporated by reference as if each individual publication or patent application were specifically and individually indicated to be incorporated by reference.

Although the foregoing invention has been described in some detail by way of
5 illustration and example for purposes of clarity of understanding, it will be readily apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art in light of the teachings of this invention that certain changes and modifications may be made thereto without departing from the spirit or scope of the appended claims.

SEQUENCE LISTING

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION:

- (i) APPLICANT: The Board of Trustees of the Leland Stanford Junior University
- (ii) TITLE OF INVENTION: CELL CALCIUM REGULATION AND ITS USE
- (iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 2
- (iv) CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:
 - (A) ADDRESSEE: FLEHR, HOHBACH, TEST, ALBRITTON & HERBERT
 - (B) STREET: 4 Embarcadero Center, Suite 3400
 - (C) CITY: San Francisco
 - (D) STATE: California
 - (E) COUNTRY: USA
 - (F) ZIP: 94111-4187
- (v) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:
 - (A) MEDIUM TYPE: Floppy disk
 - (B) COMPUTER: IBM PC compatible
 - (C) OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS/MS-DOS
 - (D) SOFTWARE: PatentIn Release #1.0, Version #1.25
- (vi) CURRENT APPLICATION DATA:
 - (A) APPLICATION NUMBER: PCT/US95/
 - (B) FILING DATE:
 - (C) CLASSIFICATION:
- (viii) ATTORNEY/AGENT INFORMATION:
 - (A) NAME: Rowland, Bertram I
 - (B) REGISTRATION NUMBER: 20,015
 - (C) REFERENCE/DOCKET NUMBER: A-59392/BIR STAN-167
- (ix) TELECOMMUNICATION INFORMATION:
 - (A) TELEPHONE: (415) 781-1989
 - (B) TELEFAX: (415) 398-3249
 - (C) TELEX: 910 277299

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:1:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 1391 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: double
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA
- (ix) FEATURE:
 - (A) NAME/KEY: CDS
 - (B) LOCATION: 37..927

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:1:

CGCCACTGCC	ACCCCTCCCA	GACTGTGGAC	GGGAGG	ATG	GAG	TCG	ATG	GCC	GTC	54
				Met	Glu	Ser	Met	Ala	Val	
				1				5		
GCT	ACC	GAC	GGC	GGG	GAG	AGG	CCG	GGG	GTC	102
Ala	Thr	Asp	Gly	Gly	Glu	Arg	Pro	Gly	Val	
			10				15		20	
TCG	GCT	TCC	CAG	CGT	CGG	GCG	GAG	CTG	CGT	150
Ser	Ala	Ser	Gln	Arg	Arg	Ala	Glu	Leu	Arg	
		25				30			35	
AAC	TCG	GAA	CAG	CGC	ATC	AAC	CGG	ATC	ATG	198
Asn	Ser	Glu	Gln	Arg	Ile	Asn	Arg	Ile	Met	
	40					45			50	
AGC	GGC	GCG	GAA	GAA	GAA	AGT	CAA	ACA	AAA	246
Ser	Gly	Ala	Glu	Glu	Glu	Ser	Gln	Thr	Lys	
	55				60				65	70
GAT	AAA	CTG	AAC	TCC	CTC	AGC	GTT	CCT	TCC	294
Asp	Lys	Leu	Asn	Ser	Leu	Ser	Val	Pro	Ser	
			75					80		85
CTG	GGT	GAT	TCA	GTC	AGT	ACA	GGA	ACA	ACT	342
Leu	Gly	Asp	Ser	Val	Ser	Thr	Gly	Thr	Thr	
			90				95			100
GCC	GAG	GTA	AAG	GGG	ACC	CAA	CTG	GGA	GAC	390
Ala	Glu	Val	Lys	Gly	Thr	Gln	Leu	Gly	Asp	
		105					110		115	
AAA	CCA	CCT	GAG	TGC	AGT	AGT	GAT	GTC	AAC	438
Lys	Pro	Pro	Glu	Cys	Ser	Ser	Asp	Val	Asn	
	120					125			130	
AAC	AGA	GGG	GAC	CTG	ACA	GCG	GAC	TCG	GTC	486
Asn	Arg	Gly	Asp	Leu	Thr	Ala	Asp	Ser	Val	
	135				140				145	150
GGC	CTA	GAG	CAG	TAC	CTT	TCC	AGA	TTC	GAA	534
Gly	Leu	Glu	Gln	Tyr	Leu	Ser	Arg	Phe	Glu	
			155					160		165
AAA	CAG	CTG	ATT	AGT	GAA	AAA	CCC	AGT	CAA	582
Lys	Gln	Leu	Ile	Ser	Glu	Lys	Pro	Ser	Gln	
		170					175			180
GAA	GAA	TTT	GAC	TCT	TTT	CGA	ATA	TTT	AGA	630
Glu	Glu	Phe	Asp	Ser	Phe	Arg	Ile	Phe	Arg	
		185				190				195
CTT	GCT	CTT	GGA	GTC	AGA	GCT	TTT	GTT	TGC	678
Leu	Ala	Leu	Gly	Val	Arg	Ala	Phe	Val	Cys	
	200					205			210	

[illegible]

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:2:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 296 amino acids
(B) TYPE: amino acid
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:2:

Met Glu Ser Met Ala Val Ala Thr Asp Gly Gly Glu Arg Pro Gly Val
1 5 10 15

Pro Ala Gly Ser Gly Leu Ser Ala Ser Gln Arg Arg Ala Glu Leu Arg
20 25 30

Arg Arg Lys Leu Leu Met Asn Ser Glu Gln Arg Ile Asn Arg Ile Met
35 40 45

Gly Phe His Arg Pro Gly Ser Gly Ala Glu Glu Glu Ser Gln Thr Lys
 50 55 60
 Ser Lys Gln Gln Asp Ser Asp Lys Leu Asn Ser Leu Ser Val Pro Ser
 65 70 75 80
 Val Ser Lys Arg Val Val Leu Gly Asp Ser Val Ser Thr Gly Thr Thr
 85 90 95
 Asp Gln Gln Gly Gly Val Ala Glu Val Lys Gly Thr Gln Leu Gly Asp
 100 105 110
 Lys Leu Asp Ser Phe Ile Lys Pro Pro Glu Cys Ser Ser Asp Val Asn
 115 120 125
 Leu Glu Leu Arg Gln Arg Asn Arg Gly Asp Leu Thr Ala Asp Ser Val
 130 135 140
 Gln Arg Gly Ser Arg His Gly Leu Glu Gln Tyr Leu Ser Arg Phe Glu
 145 150 155 160
 Glu Ala Met Lys Leu Arg Lys Gln Leu Ile Ser Glu Lys Pro Ser Gln
 165 170 175
 Glu Asp Gly Asn Thr Thr Glu Glu Phe Asp Ser Phe Arg Ile Phe Arg
 180 185 190
 Leu Val Gly Cys Ala Leu Leu Ala Leu Gly Val Arg Ala Phe Val Cys
 195 200 205
 Lys Tyr Leu Ser Ile Phe Ala Pro Phe Leu Thr Leu Gln Leu Ala Tyr
 210 215 220
 Met Gly Leu Tyr Lys Tyr Phe Pro Lys Ser Glu Lys Lys Ile Lys Thr
 225 230 235 240
 Thr Val Leu Thr Ala Ala Leu Leu Leu Ser Gly Ile Pro Ala Glu Val
 245 250 255
 Ile Asn Arg Ser Met Asp Thr Tyr Ser Lys Met Gly Glu Val Phe Thr
 260 265 270
 Asp Leu Cys Val Tyr Phe Phe Thr Phe Ile Phe Cys His Glu Leu Leu
 275 280 285
 Asp Tyr Trp Gly Ser Glu Val Pro
 290 295

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated DNA of at least 18bp at the locus encoding calcium-signal modulating cyclophilin (CAML) having at least 60% homology to SEQ ID: NO 1.
5
2. An isolated DNA according to Claim 1, comprising the sequence of SEQ ID: NO 1 or having at least 75% homology to said sequence.
3. An isolated cDNA according to Claim 2, comprising the sequence of SEQ ID:
10 NO 1.
4. A purified protein composition comprising at least 50 weight % based on protein of CAML.
- 15 5. A purified protein composition according to Claim 4, wherein said CAML is human.
6. A method for screening agents for modulation of the cellular calcium activated pathway, said method comprising:
20
contacting cells overexpressing CAML as a result of integration into said cells of an expression cassette comprising a gene encoding CAML with said agent; and
determining the effect of said agent on the expression of at least one gene under
25 the regulatory control of the calcium activated pathway.

7. A method for screening agents which affect the binding of CAML to cyclophilin B, said method comprising:

combining said agent with a medium comprising CAML and cyclophilin B,
5 wherein one of said CAML and cyclophilin B is bound to a surface; and

determining the amount of CAML and cyclophilin B bound to said surface in the presence and absence of said agent as a measure of the affect of said agent on said binding.

10

8. A cell comprising an expression cassette integrated into said cell comprising a gene encoding CAML, said expression cassette being integrated at a site other than the natural site for said CAML gene.

15 9. A cell according to Claim 8, wherein said cell is a mammalian cell and said expression cassette comprises a promoter other than the CAML promoter.

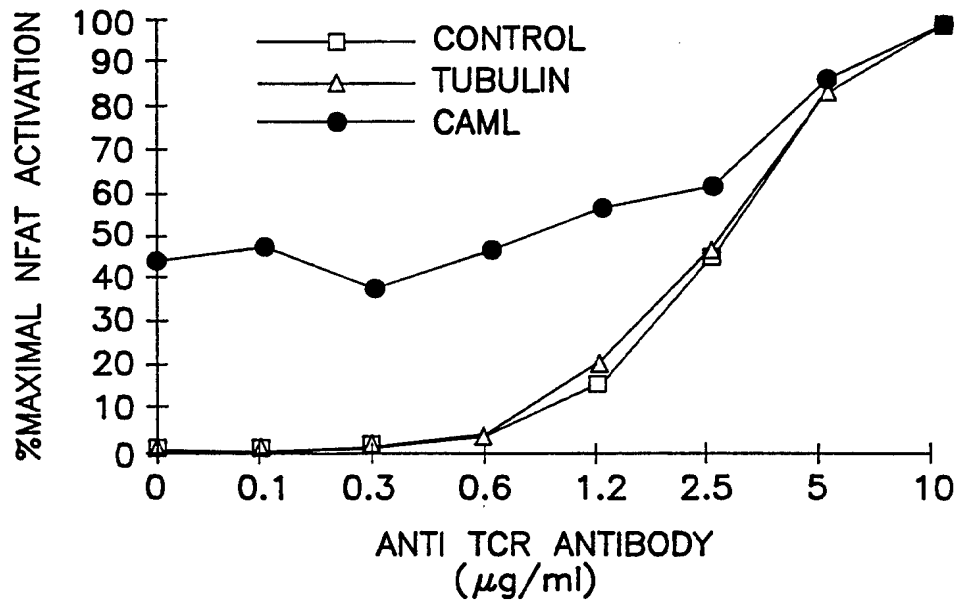


FIG. 1a

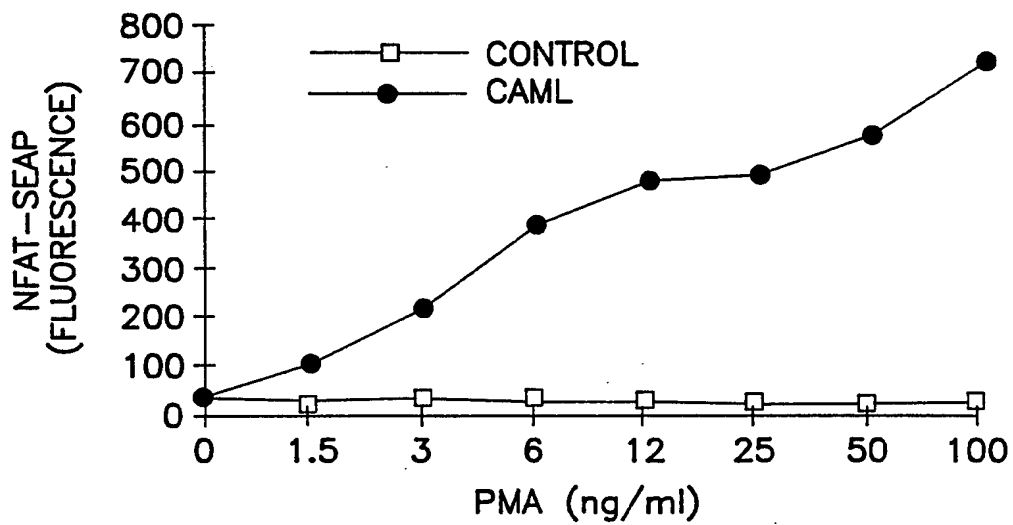


FIG. 1b

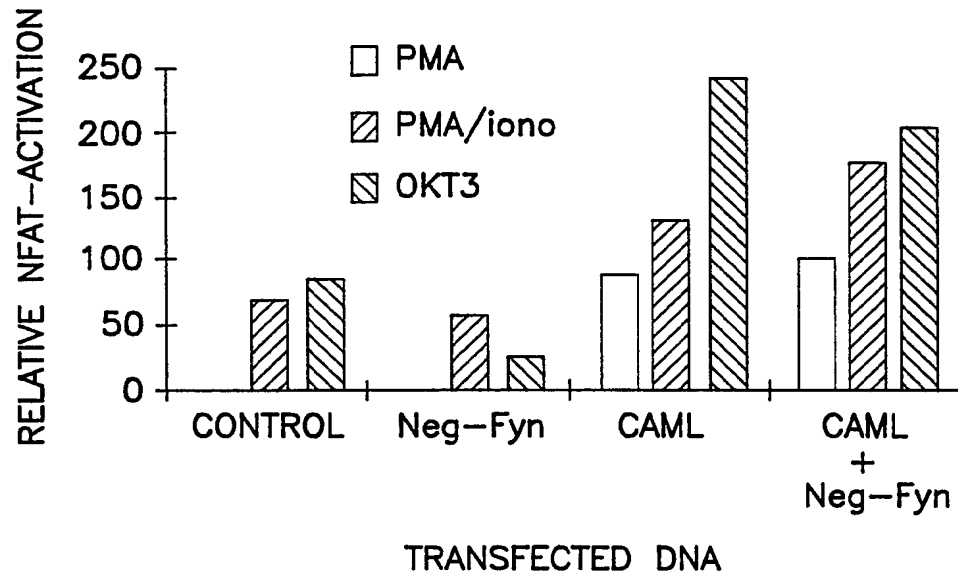


FIG. 1c

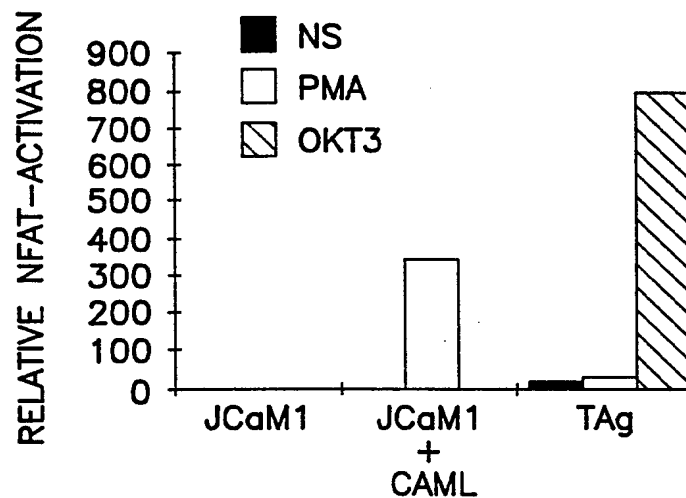


FIG. 1d

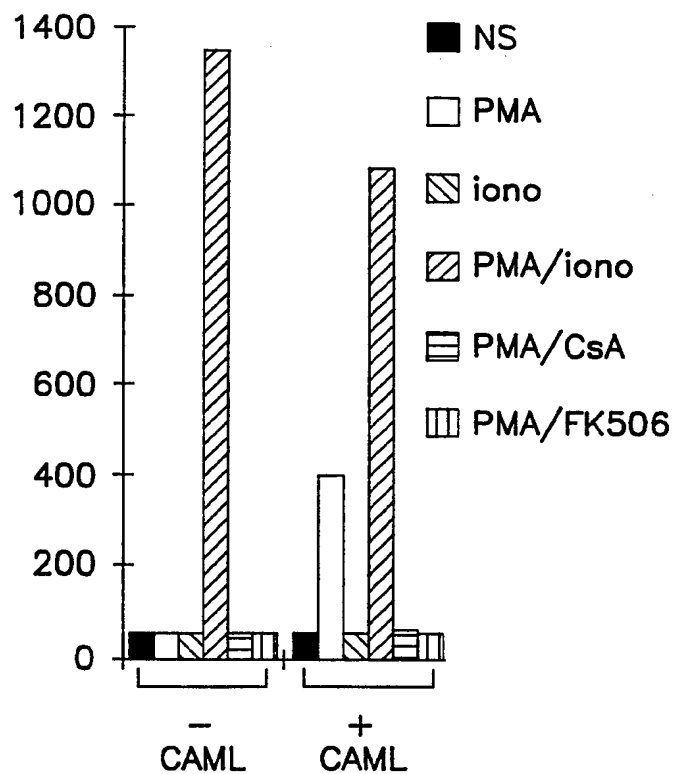


FIG. 2a

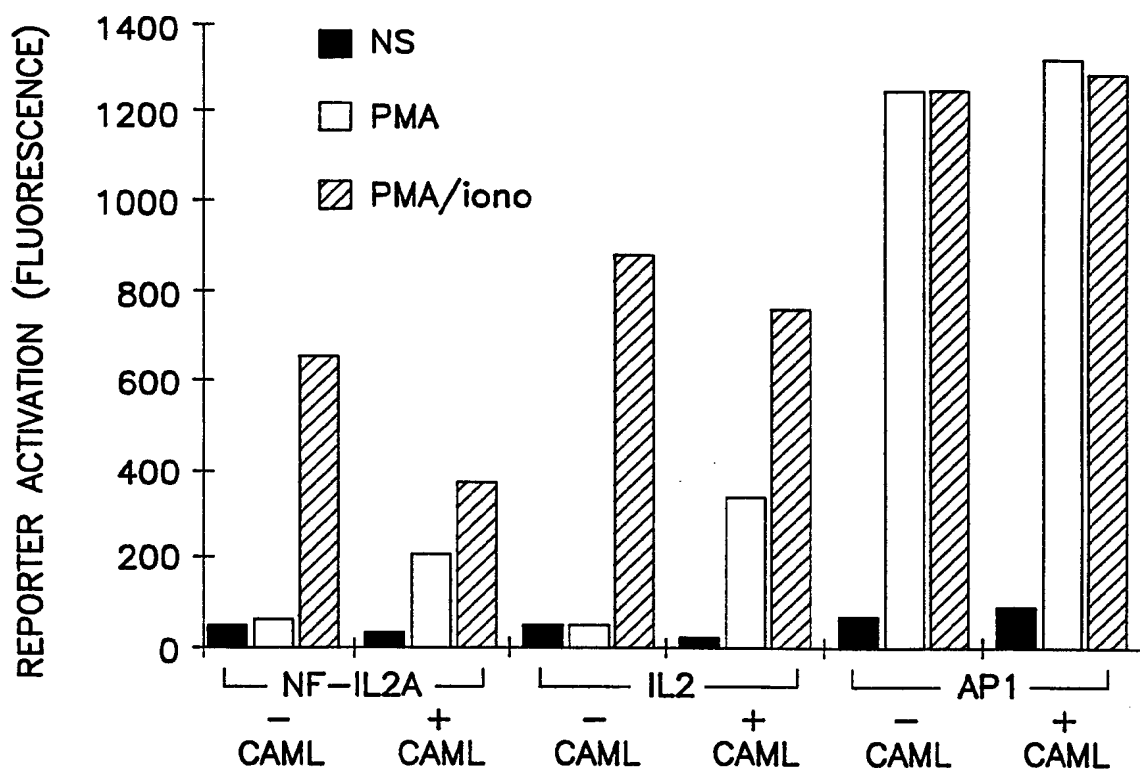
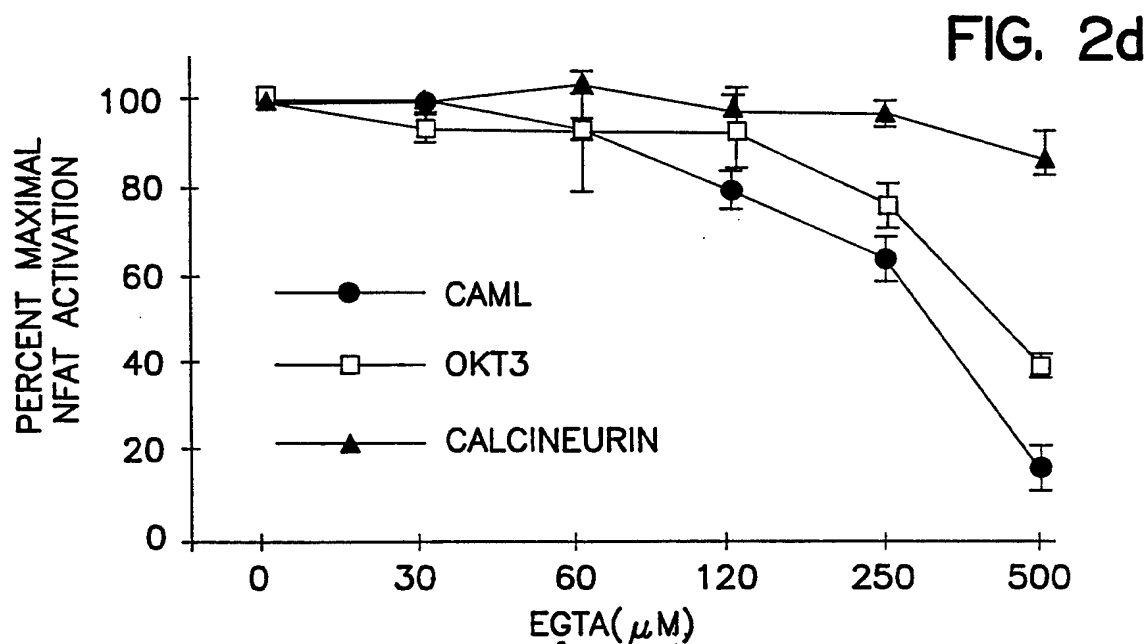
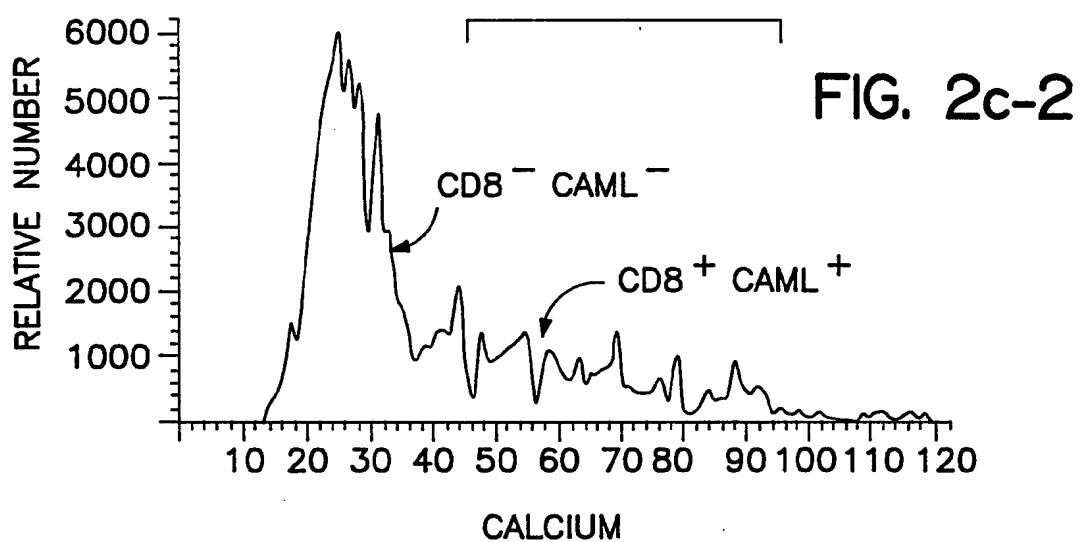
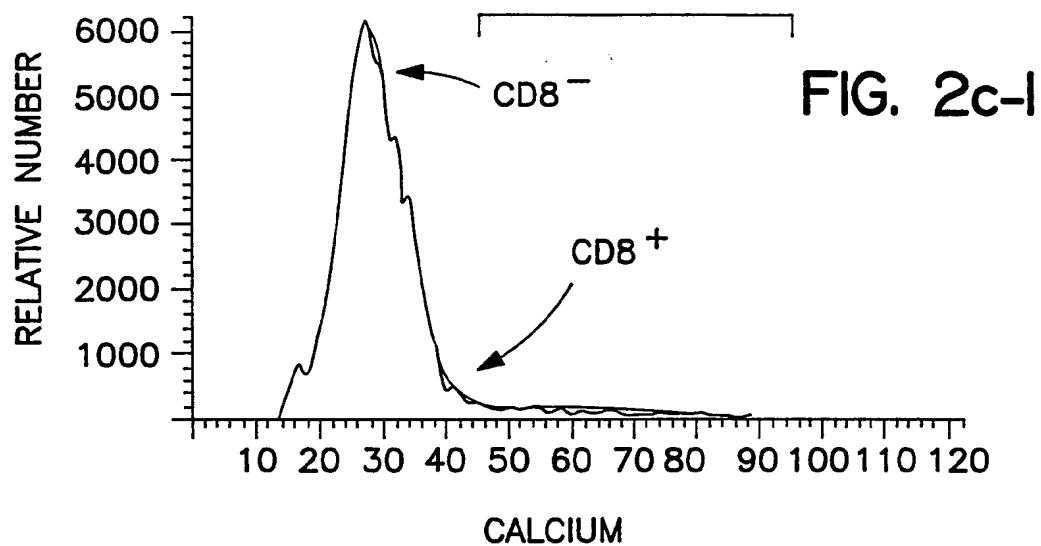


FIG. 2b



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US95/07752

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) : Please See Extra Sheet.
US CL : 435/7.8, 29, 172.1, 240.2, 320.1; 530/350; 536/23.5
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 435/7.8, 29, 172.1, 240.2, 320.1; 530/350; 536/23.5

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

APS, DIALOG, GENBANK
search terms: CAML, cyclophilin?, calcium, assay?, screen?, bind?, express?, agonist?, antagonist?

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X, P ----- Y	Nature, Volume 371, issued 22 September 1994, BRAM ET AL, "Calcium Signalling in T Cells Stimulated by a Cyclophilin B-Binding Protein", pages 355-358, see entire document.	1-5, 8-9 ----- 6-7
A	Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, Volume 90, issued July 1993, FRIEDMAN ET AL, "Cloning and Characterization of Cyclophilin C-Associated Protein: A Candidate Natural Cellular Ligand for Cyclophilin C", pages 6815-6819, see entire document.	1-9

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	*X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
E earlier document published on or after the international filing date	*Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	*Z* document member of the same patent family
O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

31 AUGUST 1995

Date of mailing of the international search report

22 SEP 1995

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Authorized officer

PERRY A. MCKELVEY

Telephone No. (703) 308-0196

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US95/07752

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	Cell, Volume 66, issued 23 August 1991, FRIEDMAN ET AL, "Two Cytoplasmic Candidates for Immunophilin Action Are Revealed by Affinity for a New Cyclophilin: One in the Presence and One in the Absence of CsA", pages 799-806, see entire document.	1-9
Y, P	US, A, 5,401,629 (HARPOLD ET AL) 28 March 1995, see entire document, especially columns 13-14.	6
Y	US, A, 4,859,609 (DULL ET AL) 22 August 1989, see entire document, especially column 20.	7
Y	US, A, 4,789,628 (NAYAK) 6 December 1988, see entire document, especially column 12.	7

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US95/07752

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER:

IPC (6):

G01N 33/53; C12Q 1/02; C12N 15/09, 5/10, 15/63; C07K 14/00; C07H 21/04